Dear Howard, 7/31/72

Your last two mailings reached here in reverse order, that of the 27th getting here this morning. I read it between appointments in town and while walking to them, so if my recall is not as clear as it could be, I do recall enough. I'll then skim it and add what may seem necessary.

We are under much more severe stress than out usual high level. I tell you this partly in explanation of what may superficial seem like schoid views and partly because you have to puzzle a bit more to figure some things out and partly so you can have this in mind in the evaluations we all have to make of the words and thoughtsmanc concepts of others.

Jerry and Lifton: this confirms my omw analysis that Jerry needs to put his head together and is incapable of doing it without help and is furious at the thought. He is hungup because of ego and vanity and perhaps more because his father is some kind of psycho, probably part of the cause of the rupture of that marriage. But I think it is urgent that you press upon him the extreme danger of any dealings with or trust in Lifton. If you can't do this any other way, insist that he speak to Gary. Also convey to him that if he should so much as breathe a word of any of my work, even published, to Lifton, while I can't see whether I can do anything or if I can what it can be I'll be so harsh with him he'll never forget it. This is part of the innate arrogance. The egocentric bastard Jerry really knows nothing about the s bject, knows Lifton is at best quite sick, and is dealing with him on what? Jerry is doing no work. This is a devil in him that must be stopped. It will not be pleasant, may not be possible, but can accomplish the total silencing of this arrogant and ignorant intrusion that has already cause so much troible that can't be relieved and can't and never did hold the possibility of constructive purpose. Sylvia will also, I'm sure, be glad to unload on him and because of the potential,despite the condition of her health, should be asked to. We have too many troubles now. And you'll see from my latest exchange with Jerry that, while to preserve your confidence I couldn't mention Lifton, I did lean on him again about seeking psychhatric help.

Not that I can say I hold any confidence in the art. It is clearly not a science from my experience with it, one of our immediate problems. I saw our lawyer Wednesday, he had part of our medical records, and they are low-grade witchcraft in some areas and thoroughly gutted in others. The essential records, those my then lawyer asked be preserved with care and thoroughness, a request I made in writing, do not exist! Other things of which I know simply do not exist. I'll sapre you the rest until you are here, but I think it will shock you. Some of it, the more innocuous of the poor witchcraft, is the case of a doctor I'd not seen earlier or ever, who asked me about the work I do. I told him. He raved. My dather will be dying to meet you. He says exactly the same thing. So, I gave him my phone and instructions on getting here and forgot about it. But instead of the things for which I went to see him, there is a not suggesting nuttiness on this andmone that can be misused in court, noting that an airline ticket was projecting from my pocket. It was a hot day, I was wearing shorts, sportshirt and sandals only, and what in the hell else was I to do with the airline ticket, my agent being in DC? I had just gotten it or just changed my N.O. reservations hence had to have it with me. This is medicine? The rest is worse, much worse, and is subject to the most prejudicial and potentially disasterous misuse in court and what may perhaps be more evil, must shake our lawyer's confidence in us. So, at the time I wrote you the long letter, I had this in mind and had just written a long letter to the emdical director of our medical coop.

So you can better understand this terrible situation and see how much more strain it imposes on us, we pay them over $850 a year for complete medical coverage and we have had to apply for public assistance to cover what, it now turns out, they are not covering. It was for that that I had to go into Frederick this morning. I think you can understand how unwelcome this is when we scratch around to raise so enormous a premium and how it reminds me of all those who owe me money, including criticis, and the bitterness it could but doesn't prompt about all the various kinds of crookedness. I must have more that $50,000 coming to me from all sources, mostly publishers, wholesalers and truckers. And with this I have to apply for public assistance? Probably owning property, even if mortgaged, will preclude it, but I had to do it. Our predicatable income for the coming 5 months is $250 total.

On your letter and Wecht: I disagree with you on what he means by other things, as I've

already written. I take a more jaundiced view of his intentions, in general and in this case.

Let me digress to remind you that I asked you for a skeleton chart, those I had in an old Gray's anatomy being unclear and took bulky. I used that chart, by the phone where it has remained, to tell Cyril by phone what I had learned from the d.c., so you have some knowledge of this and might be bale to use it with him to shbs him the meaningleasness of what he did and the absolute falsity of the fictions he has created. You know the rest of the file, which contains Cyril's thanks for the earlier parts of PM.

I would in no circumstances help Cyril do that which can constructively be done without ironclad guarantees that he'll restrict himself as I suggested in writing you, to the proper and exclusive purposes of exhausting the contract material. If this is accepted, as I believe impossible but puts us in a better position for the future than your response, then the next thing would be total silence for the forseeable future not to permit misuse and to permit proper and adequate disgesting of what he learns, if anything. He may learn much for him, but that is not the same as out total knowledge, where I expect minor contribution only if any. My suggestions on cautions may be inadequate because of the haste in which I responded and the prevailing and limiting stresses.

Spectre: all that is academic because with typical courtesy toward a client and with proper respect for his own limitations, Bud did not respond nor did he phone me to discuss it. In fact, he has yet to inform me what he did or to send me copies of even a list of what he supplied in my name. Does this give you perspective on him and in general of the characters and methods of those who make allegations against me? So, I&ll skip all that until you are here. Please make a note to take this up, if only by the date of the letter, because in other areas where it is not academic you raise very good objections you did not raise earlier

Slides: I did have your Fillinger stuff in mind. I also had my own knowledge, part coming from help I gave George Herman of CBS news long ago when he was seeking the answers to inquiries addressed by them to him. Conclusion this graph: he can ask for what is not covered by the contract, but has no rights to it under the contract. I think he should keep the two separate, but as you can see, I also suggested that he ask not under the contract for what we know is missing, like the full-body X-rays. There is no confusion in my mind about the difference in significance between bruise and abrasion or scorching. You misread or I made unclear. I have quite a thing with this woth Perry, for example. My point was not merely whether t e rear shows entry but that it does no good to learn this, all of us having assumed it is at least possible, and it does harm to appear to validate anything said officially without a complete context, and this necessarily involves the absence of study of the anterior wound. Besides, we have no way of knowing the source of that slide, do we, really?

Sylvia read the long bit I had done on Exhess and as you know, I spotted what others didn't and it does say they had the pix. You know Specter admits one, as Kelley himself told me, and they had the X-rays, then undamaged, according to Kelley to me. What this addresses is Sylvia's present competence to counsel. If we can all forget, something of the significance of this is too basic. On her health, I fear rough days are ahead. When I've had time I've been working my way through the books on drugs a friend sent me. In today's mail I have more infor I've sought to be a le to help a young man your age. What she was on is addictive and before withdrawal is mind-altering and can be judgement-altering. Added to her innate character, the combination can be severe.

Burkley files: As I've written, I found one misfiled. Separately you indicate you know where I kept it, which is reassuring. You and Ross's absence from contact limits it entirely to JF, who could have asked me for it and, out of character, undertaken to refile. It is not under "autopsy" where I've always kept it, as you know. That hunch paid off. The other partsmay be with the master of PM, to which I must return promptly to have all the changes made before this pitential problem, not very close.

With a record to cite, I disagree with you on the letters to Jerry. I hate to have to write them, but on the mental health I owe it to him, and the very letter to which you object got him to agree to send me the file the day after the date on the copy you now haave. I suspect he may be up to something, because he specifies he'll return the way way I said not to, laying a foundation from my own caution for its "disappearance". If he had mailed it when he said he would, it should have been here by today and isn't.

I've noted the subjects of the enclose clip and I'm glad to get them, but reading will have to be later, at night unless there are brief periods free. I'll get to JP's 7/23. I note he indicates carbons to others, not the case with him or Gary on the originals to me. And for the record, nothing here from either in response to my long-ago last.

As I get into this I'll comment. I t ink you must really go after him on this line: "knowing how Harold would react knowing either Sylvia or Wecht had seen it." I told Wecht about it as soon as you sent me the chart, and you know the numbers of times I invited both here to see everything. Because what is at issue is both his arrogance and his judgement, I think you should hit him hard on this. And ask him what happened to his story that he also gave it to Wecht? He says only Sylvia. Arrogance again in "Perhaps I should have told Harold I had done it." Why not have asked me first? There was no way I could have prevented it if he had then done it, is there? Make him face himself before he does more harm from this incredible combination of limitless arrogance, abysmal ignorance and childish judgement based on yearning anf emotional immaturity and a longing to be important. That conclusion of this graph "hope he [Harold] wouldn't find out" is as open an admission of dishonest relationship and intent as I think is possible.

His"one side" on the Burkley matter: except for his ignorance, is there another, with my having told Wecht about it in confidence and that promptly as I could accurately? Hit him again on where the hell he gets off thinking he knows that of which he knows nothing, which is in two vast areas, fact of the assassination and what others have done and are doing. And in the context of his hoping I wouldn t find out, which should influence CRS and SM. And if he would have "preferred that for you to have confronted me first", how can he assert a different right for what he did to me and with my material,not his. emend him again that I have shown this to everyone who has ever been here, that I was not keeping it secret, and that he is just disgustingly ignorant. I don't think sugarocating will work.

Everybody is arrogant except him. He only arroagtes to himself the decisions on what should and should not be done,where he has no factual basis for deciding but disposes of the work he knows is that of others, does this sneakily, hoping I'd not find out to illustrate, decides for me separately what I would do with what he has of mine, and tell you you are arrogant. He has failed to respond to the substance of your complaint, that his is overwhelming ignorance, and for the benfit of the other two if not him, I'd remind him of these things to which he does not respond.

If he didn t deliberately misrepresent anything to you in his last letter, that does not mean he didn t do it from the all-encompassing ignorance and the distortions with which he seeks to justify an unethical thing. And was he less than deliberate in hoping I wouldn't find out?

Part of what I have in mind in all of this is making it so hot, so intense, that none of these will in the future duplicate what they have done. We both realize that it can't be undone. But with them out of it and you and I among the very few in it, we have to take steps, harsh ones if necessary, to prevent their even thinking of doing any such stupid things again. They have to learn that being out of it they must stay out of it when it comes to policies and judgements involving others. And in this sense it would not hurt to remind that Sylvia has been admittedly selective in accepting confidences.

I'm at the Lifton P.S. Sending a copy to Gary, you ought in the letter charge him and Sylvia with not having told him what they know about Lifton and really clobber him again on what is not in this case ignorance, because he has been told about Lifton, but superarrogance to consider any contact of this nature uder the circumstances, esp. if he has seen Wecht and could have foisted off a twisted concept of any kind on him. "I don't enjoy playing people off against each other in the case". Can anything be more arrogant or worse. Why appointed him God? And if he's done what "I didngt mean to", ought he not stop doing anything when he is working, admittedly on emotion and instinct and actually in disgraceful ignorace?

Hit hard on his admission of interference,"I realize I don't belong in the middle of this so I won't interfere any further". Where the hell did he get off doing it to begin with, and how can he undo the harm he has already done by interference and the most clumsy Machavellianism. No, this letter provides a means for what should be done, including helping him see himself as he is, and for that for him for the future, I suggest you give serious thought to my suggestion, including a reversion to the uncharacteristic tone of your severe letter.

Remind him also that despite the shit they throw, Wecht never got in touch with me until very late in all this, months after I knew what he had done, and that even then I did not close,the door. Hastily,